

Vision 21 Implementation Committee  
Minutes (as amended) April 19, 2007  
Adopted May 17, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

Members Present: Austin Bliss, Donna Brescia, Kirk Hazlett, Meg O'Brien, Jennifer Page, Paul Santos, Paul Solomon

Also Present: Delores Keefe

Members Absent: Sara Oaklander, Jay Szklut, Vinnie DeNovellis, Ann Rittenburg

1.       Administrativa
  - a.       Austin Bliss served as the recorder. The minutes of the March 15, 2007 meeting were approved, as amended.
2.       April 26, 2007 Event - More Than Money. Brainstorm of ideas on ways to make Belmont more welcoming
  - a.       Jennifer pointed out that a number of representatives from other Fair Housing authorities would be at the meeting, so it may be appropriate for Donna to expand her commentary to include other communities.
  - b.       Donna suggested there were opportunities for the town to do better marketing.
  - c.       Paul Santos suggested that the vision committee could identify natural communities, perhaps communities of faith and work with them. They may have ideas to market this town.
  - d.       Donna suggested we approach the realtors and ask them to do affirmative action outreach. Others in our committee thought this was worth exploring.
  - e.       Delores observed that there are more for-rent signs posted, possibly an indicator that people are no longer using realtors to screen their properties.
  - f.       Paul Santos thinks we have a lot more diversity in town than we realize.
  - g.       The committee discussed our interest in encouraging people of color to get involved in town politics and/or sign up for committees.
3.       Meet Belmont
  - a.       Jennifer reported that the previous organizers of Meet Belmont, Adine Storer and Kathryn Bonfiglio, are stepping back from their role of organizing Meet Belmont. (Laurie Graham will continue to work with us.) Jennifer needs some assistance. The event is packaged and ready to be implemented, and it was suggested that the Vision Committee just take it over. A task list & budget was distributed by Jennifer, so that we could have a sense of the project.
  - b.       Donna suggested we consider funding the project by allowing businesses to exhibit and asking them for a donation.
  - c.       Austin suggested perhaps rather than taking over the project from the Neighbors Network, we re-invest in the subgroup. Paul Santos suggested that perhaps the mission of the subgroup be expanded beyond one event, and that may make it more attractive.
  - d.       Jennifer suggested putting a piece in the paper right away to solicit participation. Donna offered to get involved as well. They will come back to the Vision Committee if they need additional help.
  - e.       Paul said that Meet Belmont is usually held on the last Tuesday in August, which would be the 28th.
4.       Town Day, May 19th
  - a.       Sara Oaklander has the table we normally use at town day.
  - b.       Donna suggested that Habitat for Humanity could share a table with the Vision Committee. It was decided that because one is a town based group and the other isn't, that it was better that they were at different tables.

- c. The Vision table will need coverage 9am - 3pm, unfortunately Paul Santos, Delores, and Austin already have conflicts. The Photo Subgroup can't staff the Vision table because of other obligations. Donna will work on obtaining other volunteers.
- d. The Vision table will include:
  - i. Vision Display Board
  - ii. Promotion for the photo display
  - iii. Signup sheet for Meet Belmont / Neighbors Network
- 5. Photo Contest Report-Out
  - a. Zeff Photo has donated \$100 for prizes, which the group thought should be awarded in \$25 units. The president of Zeff suggested he would be interested in being one of the judges. Other donations have also been obtained, so six prizes are now available.
  - b. Flyers are now posted throughout the town, as well as multiple articles are running in the paper.
  - c. No photos have been submitted yet.
- 6. Vision Display Report-Out
  - a. Two version of the take-away vision card were presented. The group preferred the two sided card w/the town seal.
  - b. Austin reported that ballot boxes were successfully obtained. The photo group expressed interest in one for the people's choice award.
  - c. The plan is to produce an initial version of the display board for town meeting. This will allow feedback to be collected and the design tweaked before more are produced. Delores has arranged for a table at Town Meeting, in the hallway. Meg suggested that someone be available to staff the table and observe how the display is utilized.
- 7. Other Business
  - a. Belmont 150th pins are available. Delores showed them to the group, and circulated fliers on the May 19th event.
- 8. Next Meeting
  - a. Our next meeting is May 17th @7pm. As it will follow the celebration on the town green for marriage equality, it is acknowledged that some people may be a little late.

Respectfully submitted,

Austin Bliss  
Secretary Pro Tempore